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## News Release

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### For Immediate Release

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#### **HUD, VA Grants Going to Pennsylvania Public Housing Agencies *More Than \$700K to Provide Permanent Housing for Homeless Veterans***

LEBANON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, has announced the award of \$728,433 to public housing agencies in four Pennsylvania cities to supply permanent housing and case management for the state's 964,000 Veterans.

"This initiative will strengthen our ongoing efforts to eliminate Veteran homelessness by 2015 and improve quality of life for Veterans," Secretary Shinseki said. "Working with our partners at HUD and in Congress, we continue to make good progress to reduce Veteran homelessness, though much work remains. VA is committed to providing Veterans and their families with access to affordable housing and medical services that will help them get back on their feet."

The funding, from Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH), is a coordinated effort by HUD, VA and local housing agencies to provide permanent housing for homeless Veterans.

Homeless Veterans are referred to the public housing agencies for "Housing Choice" Section 8 vouchers to assist with rent payment. Eligible homeless Veterans receive VA-provided case management and services to support stability and recovery from physical and mental health, substance use, and functional concerns contributing to or resulting from homelessness.

The Housing Authority of Philadelphia will get 50 housing vouchers for \$349,392; the Housing Authority of Allegheny County will get 25 vouchers for \$100,806; the Housing Authority of Harrisburg will get 25 vouchers for \$113,076; and the Housing Authority of the County of Chester will get 25 vouchers for \$165,159.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. VA offers eligible homeless Veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lebanon/Camp Hill Community Based Outpatient Clinic and Coatesville.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available online at <http://www.va.gov/homeless>.